

Chanukah 5759

A Time To Dedicate Our Synagogue

There could not be a more perfect time for Sha'ar Zahav to formally dedicate its synagogue than on Chanukah. The word "Chanukah" means dedication, and the holiday of Chanukah celebrates the Maccabees' rededication of the temple in Jerusalem. This year we will experience the same joy and pride that the Maccabees must have felt at that rededication, as we dedicate our synagogue on the weekend of Chanukah, December 18-20. We will celebrate all weekend with following events:

Friday, December 18, 8:15 pm

We will have an extra festive Shabbat service in honor of the dedication of our building. At this service, the stain glass windows that are being made to frame our ark will be unveiled.

Saturday, December 19

On Shabbat morning, our children will participate in the dedication of the building. Kadimah students and preschoolers will have special activities in celebration of Chanukah and the building dedication. The Adult Education/Talmud Torah committee will also host Shabbat morning Torah study for adults.

At 5 pm, the official dedication ceremony will begin. Following Havdallah and menorah lighting, we will dedicate our synagogue by lighting the *ner tamid*, the everlasting light, just as the Maccabees lit the *ner tamid* to rededicate the temple nearly two thousand years ago. We will follow this dedication ceremony with a joyous party with music from our own Klezmer band, Gay Iz Mir, dj dancing, food from neighborhood restaurants and latkes made by our own youth group. Surely this will be the most festive Chanukah party CSZ has ever held!

Sunday, December 20, noon-3 pm

To conclude our dedication weekend, Sha'ar Zahav will hold an open house for our neighbors. We will invite members of the churches in our neighborhood, residents from Notre Dame, the Dolores Street Community Services Dolores Street Shelter and Cohen House,

as well as many others who live and work in our new neighborhood. This will also be a time for us to show our appreciation to St. Matthew's and to our other neighbors who have generously hosted us this past year.

La'atid Chanukah Party

La'atid invites you to see friends old and new at a party on the first night of our festival of light. Come to gamble, to eat and dance to the beat at 215 1/2 Henry Street. Be sure you are seen on December thirteen. Come at eight or you'll be late. It'll be a blast. So RSVP fast. To Geoff, 255-7762, or Renée in the office.

Come to the CSZ Book Fair!

As part of the celebrations for our new home, CSZ will hold a book fair on two weekends in December. We have been helped by a host of reader members to gather a list of books with something for everyone who reads, and some excellent ideas for those on your gift lists as well. Our Jewish net has been cast wide, so you will find books on Judaica, religious philosophy, Jewish history and culture, contemporary politics and social issues, as well as fiction and humor. We'll have books for kids of all ages, and of course, lots of cookbooks.

The Book Fair is a benefit for the CSZ library; a portion of all sales will go toward acquiring books for our collection. In addition, we will have some books that we will encourage members to purchase for donation to the library.

The Book Fair will be open Friday, December 11 from 4 pm to 7:30 pm, and Sundays, December 13 and 20, from 10 am to 4 pm. We need volunteers to sell books on those days; please call Judith Cohen (927 2247) if you can help out.



CSZ at Habitat for Humanity. Photo by Renée Bauer.

Rabbi's Column

Festival of Light ... and Dark

Chanukah falls on the longest, darkest nights of the year. The holiday begins as the lunar cycle finishes. The waning moon's last light in the Jewish month of Kislev disappears. It ends as the new moon of Tevet peers over the horizon. The darkness of this lunar cycle parallels and reinforces the darkness of the solar winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

It is easy to make the analogy between darkness and sadness, or even evil. In this view, light then symbolizes hope and goodness. This is the standard perspective of Western society, and in my mind, there is a slightly racist subtext to this metaphor. It's pretty simplistic: light is good, black is bad.

But does Judaism really view darkness in a negative way? The Jewish calendar is lunar. Each month begins with the new moon, a thin crescent, not the bright shining full moon. The Jewish "day" begins at sundown, not sunrise. The Jewish New Year begins at the autumnal equinox, not the vernal equinox. In terms of marking time, Judaism seems to favor darkness, not shun it.

Our secular society underscores the value of enlightenment. Enlightenment is the process of acquiring knowledge, intellectual growth and rationalism. These are important social and spiritual values. But what of "endarkenment?" Cannot this also be positive? Perhaps endarkenment is the process of quiet integration, meditation and mystical awareness.

The High Holy Days are a big spiritual meal. The lengthening nights of the months of Heshvan and Kislev are our opportunity to digest and make sense of the sometimes subtle, but often substantial, inner changes which we initiate on Rosh Hashanah. As the natural world endarkens, our gardens lie dormant and we prepare for winter, there is more space to listen to the still small voice within.

Chanukah ritualizes this balance of dark and light, of growth and integra-



Rabbi Jane Litman

tion, of the rational and the mystical. The tiny flickering flames of the candles or oil lamps are not meant to overpower the velvet night, but to be in harmony with it.

Mishkan Dolores: Accelerate Pledges

Thanks to so many of you for the fabulous response to the matching grant offered by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund (\$40,000) and the Columbia Foundation (\$10,000) towards our Mishkan Dolores capital campaign. As of this writing, we are hopeful that we will match the full \$50,000 total by the December 1 deadline.

You can make a big difference to CSZ if you are able to accelerate your pledge or make a new pledge by year's end. Almost all bills for our new building must be paid by the end of this year, even though our Mishkan pledges are being paid to CSZ over several years. To cover the difference, we have borrowed money from several sources which will be paid back over the next few years from our pledge payments.

Accelerating your pledge gives us the opportunity to reduce significantly long-term interest payments and put more funds into the wide variety of programs in our new Mishkan. Perhaps you can make your last year's payment now or pay off your entire pledge by December 31.

Donations are tax-deductible, including gifts of stock. For more information about stock contributions, please contact Administrator Lea Salem at the CSZ office. For information about accelerating your pledge or making a new one, please contact Tiela Chalmers (386-6738 or tchalmers@sfbar.org) or Ellie Cohen (455-0416 or ellcohen@aol.com).

Chanukah Blood Drive

CSZ will host a blood drive at our new building either December 6 or December 13. Watch for more details.

Leadership Development Class

The 1999 Leadership Development Program is having its orientation and overview meeting on Tuesday, December 15 at 6 pm in the synagogue library. The six-session seminar is designed as an entry point to synagogue participation and leadership.

Various synagogue leaders and Rabbi Litman will serve as presenters for sessions which will help you understand how Sha'ar Zahav works, where we have come from in our governance and how we fit into the Reform movement in North America. There will be opportunity to learn new skills and meet with other members interested in active participation.

The Leadership Development Program orientation is open to all members and no commitments are required. Please contact Lea Salem in the office to register because space is limited. For additional information, please contact Paul Cohen (383-8954).

Rabbi News

On December 11, Rabbi Litman's sermon will be titled "Dreams, Freud and the Jewish Mystical Tradition." On December 18, Rabbi Litman's sermon will be titled "In the Steps of the Maccabees: Dedicating the Mishkan."

Rabbi Litman will speak on December 13 on the topic of Reconstructionism at the Kedem Congregation in Palo Alto.

On October 29, Rabbi Litman was part of a televised panel on the topic of Hate Crimes Legislation.

During the first week of November, Rabbi Litman was interviewed by a French television station for a documentary on the topic of gay marriages. Rabbi Litman spoke about gay marriage in general, and more specifically on the November wedding of CSZ members Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw.

On a lighter note, Rabbi Litman and Reverend Jim Mitulski have been asked to model for a Benetton spread on gay life.

Rabbi Litman will be out of town from Tuesday, December 22, through the secular New Year.

The Shammes: The Unblessed Candle

—Nina Wouk

On each successive night of Chanukah, we light an additional candle. One of the many explanations for this custom is that Chanukah celebrates the victory of those who spread light in the world. We say two brachot over these candles; and, while they are burning, we do no work. Yet there is no ritual concerning the only candle that spreads light to other candles on Chanukah. The existence and labor of the shammes are taken for granted.

The often-ignored shammes gives us much to contemplate on Chanukah, the festival of light-in-darkness. Chanukah arrives at the dark of the moon, during the part of the year when nights are longest, when American Jews feel most awkwardly different, excluded from the Christmas frenzy around us. The political event that Chanukah celebrates was the conclusion of a vicious civil war between Jewish factions. Its heroes, the Maccabees, not only slaughtered their more liberal compatriots, but also violated Jewish law by setting themselves up as kings even though they were hereditary priests. They also made an alliance with Rome, the eventual destroyer of the very Temple Judah Maccabee rededicated. Against this sobering background, the shammes stubbornly kindles the lights that make Chanukah into a joyous holiday!

How is this possible? The shammes is a miraculous candle. Like the small vial of oil in the rabbinic Chanukah legend, the shammes creates light for eight days. According to Arthur Waskow, the oil represents "the irreducible minimum of spiritual light and creativity within the Jewish people—still there even in its worst moments." The oil, and the shammes, represent the *pintele yid*, the minute but inexhaustible source of inner strength, the "still small voice" of Elijah's climactic vision. More fundamentally, the shammes lights the way for further light, just like the light that exists in the Torah's creation story before the sun, moon and stars.

According to Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg, the eight blessed Chanukah candles commemorate the rededication of the Temple, while the shammes represents those who fell in battle,

fighting to reclaim and defend the Temple. Because the candle is sacrificed in lighting others, it symbolizes the willing sacrifice of life to increase freedom, peace, security and holiness. The shammes can be appropriately lit in honor of martyrs like Yitzchak Rabin, Martin Luther King or Rosa Luxemburg, keeping in mind the images in Hannah Senesh's poem, "Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame."

Rabbi Samuel Boteach takes another approach. The shammes, he writes, is the candle in the background, the candle that gives context and creates possibility. The shammes is like our exploited and ignored natural world and should be lit with the appropriate resolutions to protect, restore and recognize nature as more than a collection of resources.

The shammes is also the enabling candle, its work noticed only in the other candles' light. It represents people whose work consists of helping others shine: mothers, teachers, nannies, nurses, secretaries. They perform all the necessary, denigrated jobs, traditionally relegated to women, without which the human race would die out or, at least, merely stumble along. To honor the shammes is to honor these tasks and the countless generations of unsung women who have done this work.

"Shammes" also means synagogue caretaker. In old Jewish communities, this unglamorous, low-paying job was given to someone who would otherwise be destitute, dependent on charity. The poverty of my great-grandfather, a shammes in Minsk, inspired my great-grandmother to provide their children with a secular education and the chance to make a decent living. The moment before lighting the shammes would be an appropriate time to make donations to organizations that help people become self-supporting or that offer assistance to the working poor.

Chanukah, the celebration of light-in-darkness, calls us not only to celebrate light, but to spread it as well. The story of the miraculous few drops of oil is only legend, but it can remind us to seek and recognize as holy the constant, hidden miracles of persistent effort that surround us.

Adult Education/ Talmud Torah Events

Synagogue Architecture in a Day

We have finally moved into our new synagogue. Now come and learn about how its architecture fits in with synagogue architecture worldwide past and present. On December 6, from 1 to 6 pm, CSZ, in conjunction with Lehrhaus Judaica, is holding a one-time class about synagogue architecture. Lehrhaus Judaica instructor Jamie Hyams will present an overview using slides and video. Our own architect Jon Goldman will then talk to us about the specific architecture of our new building, as well as the models he used in its design. The cost of the class is \$20 for members and seniors (age 65+) and \$30 for the public. RSVP to the CSZ office.

Chanukah Art Fair

Begin the festival of Chanukah by letting your artistic self play for the day! CSZ's Adult Education/Talmud Torah committee invites Sha'ar Zahavniks of all ages to a hands-on Chanukah art fair on December 13 from 1 to 4 pm. We will be making Chanukah crafts, some to take home and some to give away as tzedakah. The fee to cover supply costs is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. To RSVP and for more information, call Renée in the CSZ office.

Trail Midrash

Tired of all the commercialism that invades our lives during December? Why not take a break from it with a nice Shabbat morning walk. On December 26 at 9:30 am, Prudence Carter will lead a trail midrash hike in the Berkeley hills. Participants will walk the Roundtop Loop Trail in Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve and discuss the Torah portion of the week. This trail is an easy three mile loop around the top of one of the highest peaks in the Berkeley hills and provides great views of Mt. Diablo. For the exact meeting place, RSVP to Prudence Carter (510/235-1666). Please call by December 22 if you are interested in the hike.

Yizkor Elohim

Harold Parker

March 29, 1924 –
October 17, 1998

President's Column

Happy Chanukah

As we enter autumn each year, I begin to drive my children crazy about Chanukah. As Halloween approaches, the catalogues for the holiday season start arriving and I spend my time going through them to see if they offer Chanukah cards and gifts along with the Christmas fare. When I find ones that do, I make it a point to order from them, believing that I must support their offerings, lest they decide there is no demand. I then take the catalogues that have only Christmas decorations and return them to the sender with a note asking that they consider stocking merchandise which could appeal to a wider audience. The kids think I am a little nuts about this, but they have learned to just nod quietly when I start my annual crusade. One side benefit for them is that they get odd and interesting gifts, and they like that.

This year at Sha'ar Zahav we are giving ourselves a gift in the form of our Mishkan. We will be moving in November, but the dedication will begin on December 18 and last the entire weekend. Our new building has become a reality through the work of many dedicated members over the last few years and has truly been a labor of love. From the beginning, when David Stein was president, we have met every challenge to make this dream a reality. In time, we were joined by friends and supporters in the community who were moved and inspired by our commitment. While we had known for some time that Danvers Street was too small, the prospect of finding affordable space in a suitable location was daunting at best. When the building which has become our Mishkan appeared, we worried about all the usual things: time, money, space, money, remodeling, money. But it was meant to be, and we have created a new home for ourselves. I see our new building as a gift from our community to itself and think of it as an example of our ability to claim our proper place in the Jewish community.



Diana Buchbinder

Every member, in one way or another, has had an opportunity to be part of this dream. Many have given time and resources to the effort. Now that it is time to occupy the building, the early discussions about how to acknowledge the contributions of all our members become more real, and the walls are graced with beautiful plaques bearing the names of members and families who have participated in the project. I believe the building committee, led by Tiela Chalmers, Ellie Cohen and Alice Prussin, has done a wonderful job of guiding the creation of the Mishkan while staying consistent with the values of CSZ as they were discussed during the planning phases of the project. The dedication weekend will have many wonderful and moving events: Shabbat services on Friday, the dedication on Saturday, a neighborhood open house on Sunday, seeing the plaques and stained glass, and many more surprises. Please, please, mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This is your new home, and the dedication will not be complete without you. Happy Chanukah.

Debbie Friedman Concert

CSZ joins Congregation Emanu-El and other community organizations in sponsoring Debbie Friedman in concert on Wednesday, January 13. Details to follow.

HIV+ Support Group

CSZ has an ongoing monthly drop-in support group for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars:

- Saturday, December 12, at 3 pm: Drop-in support group, location TBA.

For further information, please call the synagogue office.

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The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103-2262, 861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. To request permission to reprint material, contact Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

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Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics

Distribution: Mail It Right

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

December 1998/Volume 22, Issue 4.

Tikkun Olam/Social Action Opportunities

Tea With Our Neighbors

CSZ's Tikkun Olam/Social Action committee is continuing its commitment to sponsoring "good neighbor" projects. Last month, volunteers cooked and shared dinner with shelter guests at Dolores Street Community Services, Dolores Street Shelter. On December 5 at 2 pm, we will host Jewish residents from Notre Dame Plaza, the senior residence next door to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, at our new synagogue for an informal Shabbat afternoon tea. This will give the residents a chance to be welcomed into their new neighborhood synagogue and meet some Sha'ar Zahav members in a quiet intimate atmosphere. The committee envisions that this will be the beginning of our relationship with our Jewish neighbors. We hope to create a buddy system by which CSZ members bring Notre Dame residents to services and other holiday events. You are invited to come meet our new neighbors and welcome them to our shul. Most of the Jewish residents are native Russian speakers. Russian-speaking volunteers are thus especially needed, although everyone is encouraged to join us. RSVP to Allan Berenstein at 863-8033.

Christmas Open Hand Volunteers Still Needed

If you have not signed up for a volunteer shift at Project Open Hand on December 24 or 25, it is not too late. As is our tradition, Sha'ar Zahav and Jewish Family and Children's Services are teaming up to take over all the volunteer shifts at Project Open Hand on these days. This assures that Project Open Hand clients, San Franciscans and East Bayers living with HIV or

AIDS, will not miss the hot meal that they count on 365 days a year. This is an opportunity for you and your family to do a rewarding mitzvah. Don't miss the chance. Call Laura Lowe at 247-2409 or Renée in the synagogue office to sign up.

Thank You to Habitat Volunteers and Donors

On October 11, a dozen Sha'ar Zahav volunteers worked with volunteers from St. Ignatius Church on the construction of four Habitat for Humanity homes on South Van Ness Street in the Mission. Volunteers put siding on the houses, carried sheet rock up two flights of stairs (quite the butch job!) and did other odd jobs. In addition to this hard work, Sha'ar Zahav collected over \$900 in sponsorship of these volunteers. This was made possible by an anonymous challenge grant given to CSZ's Social Action fund. These donations assure that Habitat for Humanity San Francisco can continue building homes in partnership with low-income families. Todah rabah to all the volunteers and donors who made this project a success.

Naches

To Laurie Zimet and Toni Fitzpatrick, on the birth of their daughter, Shira Mazel Rose.

To former CSZ member Allyce Kimerling, on being elected to the Commission for Social Action and Reform Judaism.

To Andrew and Kathleen Sirkin, on the arrival of their son, Max.

To Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw, on their wedding.

To Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod, on their wedding.

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Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 10/30 Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw, in honor of their wedding
- 11/6 Michael Shaps, in honor of the naming of his son, Samuel Shaps
- 11/13 Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein
- 11/27 Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod in honor of their wedding

September Va'ad Minutes

—Joe Hample, Recorder

Rabbi Jane discussed current scandals in terms of the Jewish concepts *lashon ha'ra* (wrongful speech) and *tz'ni'ut* (modesty/privacy). Exploitative media are committing *lashon ha'ra* against our leaders and aren't practicing *tz'ni'ut* with Monica Lewinsky.

Rabbi Jane explained that at Congregation Bet Simchat Torah, our sibling congregation in New York, the D'var Torah is given by a different person at each board meeting and is published in CBST's newsletter. She has encouraged the Va'ad to think about trying this.

Sue Bojdak, chair of the Talmud Torah/Adult Education committee, reported that the committee has sponsored Queer Talmud Downtown, Trail Midrash, classes with Rabbi Jane and Diversity Dialogues. The committee is planning a Tikkun Leyl for Harvey Milk's 20th yahrzeit, a one-day class on synagogue architecture, a Chanukah art fair, and participation in the Desert Cliché exhibit at Yerba Buena Center. Next year we'll have an adult b'nai mitzvah class, Introduction to Judaism, Hebrew in a Day, a retreat committee, and chaverut havdalah (Saturday night social/study).

Talmud Torah is also planning next year's Yom Kippur workshops, including some hands-on activities. The Talmud Torah Committee includes Prudence Carter, Ron Edelman, Mark McCormick, Jacob Rothman and Nina Wouk; Paul Cohen, Rena Fischer and Claire Rappoport participate to some extent. The Va'ad thanked Sue and the Talmud Torah Committee.

Sara Haber is leaving the Dues Committee: the Va'ad thanked her for her perseverance. The Va'ad approved new Dues Committee members Drew Parker and Mike Zimmerman. Julie Moed is leaving the Va'ad: the Va'ad thanked her for her service. The Jewish Community Federation is planning a gay/lesbian mission to Israel next spring: can we combine this with the CSZ Israel trip, or is next spring too soon? Mishkan Dolores has received donation of furniture and paint.

The Va'ad approved 14 new member units. We're up to about 410 member units, including about 525 adults and 135 children.

The meeting ended with the singing of Ba-shanah Ha-ba'ah.

October Va'ad Minutes

—Joe Hample, Recorder

Rabbi Jane noted that this week's Torah portion is Bereshit, the story of creation. This week we recreate the universe, and tonight begins the third day. This was the only day when God TWICE saw that it was good, so we can anticipate an especially good day.

The newsletter is uncertain whether to run an ad for a book of Jewish lesbian erotica, *Friday The Rabbi Wore Lace*. The Va'ad expressed some discomfort with the title, but agreed that erotica is not the same as pornography. On a thumbs vote, the Va'ad endorsed running the ad.

The Kol Kolaynu committee presented its new definition of CSZ, for membership materials and the Web site, as "people of all sexual identities ... with egalitarian, feminist and gay-positive Jewish liturgy." The Va'ad invited Kol Kolaynu to express more flexibility on concepts of God and family, and to propose a shorter version of the 200-word definition for space-limited contexts. The definition alludes to the San Francisco Bay Area, but the Va'ad felt it should spell out that the synagogue is located in San Francisco. The definition eschews the controversial terms "queer" and "queer-identified." This will also be explored through one of our diversity dialogues. The Va'ad thanked Michael Chertok and the Kol Kolaynu committee for a sensitive statement and a year of hard work.

We still have 1,000 copies of our 11-year-old cookbook, but we're only selling about 85 a year, at \$12.95 plus tax. We've more than recovered the cost of printing. Should we reduce the price or give them away? Could we promote the cookbook more aggressively on the Internet? Jacob offered to store the unsold books, and has a label maker that could be used for promotional stickers identifying the book as a souvenir of some event, etc. The Va'ad voted 9-1, with one abstention, to give the books away to new members retroactive to September, but deferred any other decision on the cookbook.

What's fit to print in the newsletter? Recently the newsletter has rejected an ad for a co-parent, an article about a relationship mission statement, and an elitist-sounding ad for a dating service. The newsletter's no-personals policy

goes back to a time when the gay press was filled with very sexual personals. It was agreed that the newsletter should reflect the inclusive values of the congregation. Nothing too sexual should be printed, but tasteful personals or articles about our family structures should be acceptable. The Newsletter committee should make the judgment calls.

We participated in the New Israel Fund's recent event. We have a crisis of conscience about the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), whose director opposes same-sex marriage. We will try to meet with him at the Regional Biennial of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) in January.

The President thanked the High Holiday coordinators, especially Nicole Bloom, Joe Hample, Mike Rankin and Daphne Stuart. The Va'ad voted unanimously to borrow \$350,000 from the Jewish Community Endowment Fund for Mishkan Dolores. The Va'ad also agreed to co-sponsor a January 13 Debbie Friedman concert at Emanu-El.

The Administrator encouraged everyone to attend the UAHC Regional Biennial and circulated the publicity poster for the event. She distributed a summary of High Holiday revenues and expenses, a list of committee chairs, the CSZ kashrut policy and the Ritual Committee's proposed Shabbat policy.

The Educator and Program Director could not attend, but their reports were included in the Va'ad mailing. Kadimah and the chavurot are flourishing in temporary space but eagerly await the transition to Mishkan Dolores.

The Treasurer reported that we will have a balanced budget this year. We're ahead of budget on dues, but do have a challenging target. High Holiday donations should trickle in through December. Cash donations to the capital campaign total \$32,000 so far this year, and should pick up on account of the matching grant. We did very well raising matching-grant funds at High Holidays.

Nineteen new membership units were unanimously approved. We anticipate a net gain of membership this year. To end this meeting, we sang L'chi Lach.

Kadimah Korner

—David Shneer, Director of Education

After our long transitional period when Kadimah was on its own "Exodus," the teachers, students, families and I are very excited to be in the new building. Kadimah is ready to start making the Mishkan feel like a home for the synagogue's children. A number of activities are planned for children and families including the beginning of our parent education series, as well as the big synagogue dedication, which will coincide with our Chanukah celebration. Here is the December calendar:

- Kadimah Midweek Hebrew classes: Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16.
- Kadimah Shabbat program: Saturdays, December 5, 12 and 19.
- Chanukah and building dedication: December 19.

Kadimah wants to introduce our Kitah Bet and Dahlet teachers, Dana Schneider and Jennifer Levinson. Dana has been a teacher at Kadimah for two years, and has been working as the volunteer coordinator for the San Francisco Pride Parade. Dana is a native of New York and has been living in the Bay Area for two years. Jennifer is also a two-year Kadimah veteran, and has been working on developing our curriculum on multicultural Judaism. She works for the Marin County Legal Aid, and speaks Spanish fluently. For two years, Jen has been leading groups of Jews to Guatemala on a sister city program she helped create.

Look forward to more biographies of our teachers.

CSZ Youth

The new Sha'ar Zahav youth group had its first event in October when we gathered to paint the new building and go on a scavenger hunt in the Mission District.

Our December event is a Chanukah Party—Sunday, December 13 in the new Mishkan at 2:30 pm. We will be making lots of latkes, playing dreidl and starting out Chanukah with a bang! If you are in grade 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, come and bring your friends!

The Sha'ar Zahav youth group is made possible by a generous grant from the Horizons Foundation.

Annie Downs Bat Mitzvah

Annie Downs will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Shabbat morning, December 12, the day preceding her thirteenth birthday. A seventh grader at Orinda Intermediate School, Annie's favorite subject is math. Her major after-school activity is singing in the San Francisco Girls' Chorus, where she is in her fifth semester and sings second alto.

Annie sees the occasion of her bat mitzvah as an important marker in her life, and predicts that she will be glad later in life that she had one. "My mom didn't have one and wishes she had," Annie reflects. Annie wishes to thank her tutor Rena Fischer, her teacher Phyllis Mintzer and her bat mitzvah service co-leader Tiela Chalmers. The congregation extends its congratulations to Annie's mother, Marianne Balin, her father and stepmother, Steve and Stephanie Downs, and her sister Nora.



Annie Downs

Toddler/Preschooler Events

Dedicating our Building and Celebrating Chanukah

On Saturday morning, December 19 at 10 am, toddlers and preschoolers will have a chance to take part in dedicating our new synagogue. We will learn about the story of Chanukah and the rededication of the ancient temple, and do our own dedication of the Mishkan. Tot Shabbat

Toddlers, preschoolers and their families are invited to celebrate Shabbat together at Tot Shabbat on Friday, December 25. We will begin our evening at 6 pm with a brown bag Shabbat dinner. Following dinner at 7:15 pm, we will have a short, interactive service with regular Shabbat songs and prayers, as well as a tour of our new shul to learn what things we find in a synagogue.

Kaddish in memory of Matthew Sheppard

—Greer Hauptman

I have a million nightingales
on the branches of my heart
Flashes of rainbow
lavender
pink
It was not what he did
or
what he looked like
but for who he was
Oh god,
bring peace to all who mourn,
here in Zion, and throughout the
world...
Thousands open their hearts to love
peace
unity
and cry
I have a million nightingales
on the branches of my heart
singing Freedom
freedom
and I sing...
Yitgadal v'yitkadas sh'meh
rabah....

Parent Education Series Begins

On December 5 at 10 am, our member Susie Kisber will kick off a new monthly parent education program. Susie is a clinical psychology doctoral student writing her dissertation on Jewish lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer women and their families. She will talk about parenting and Jewish identity. Each subsequent month we will invite a speaker to teach about one of the many issues that face parents in our community. Possible topics include: disciplining our children, answering perturbing questions, parenting and spirituality, issues of gender and children, and heterosexual parents in a gay-centered synagogue. Childcare will be available for children not enrolled in Kadimah. Please call Renée in the office if you want to attend and need childcare.

Contributions

- AIDS Fund**
Arnie Jackson, in memory of Richard D. Wright.
Bikkur Cholim Fund
Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Matthew Sheppard.
Stuart Hample, in memory of Amie Herscovici.
Sherie Koshover, in loving memory of Gilbert Koshover.
- Children's Education Fund**
Ruth Schoenbach and Lynn Eden.
- General Fund**
Kenny Altman, in memory of Jerome Eisenman.
Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer, with thanks to Paul Cohen.
Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer, with thanks to Lyssa Friedman.
Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer, with thanks to Brian Besser.
Susan Cole, in honor of her friend and teacher, Paul Cohen.
Bettie and Marty Cymrot, in appreciation of the love and support that their granddaughter Ruby has received at CSZ.
Julia Friedlander, in honor of Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer on their wedding.
Stuart Hample, in memory of Amie Herscovici.
Perry Paker, in memory of Isidor Paker.
Julie Walcer.
Patricia Wilmot, in memory of Ron Wilmot.
Ron Wolberg.
- Harvey Milk Social Action Fund for the Habitat for Humanity Project**
Marjorie Bennett.
Allan Berenstein.
Carol Cabell.
James Carlson.
Mel Carriere.
Randy Chin.
Steve Elman.
Anthony Harris.
Laura Lowe.
Janis Medina and Leah Halperin.
Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem.
- Howard Steiermann**.
Nancy Thompson.
Susan Unger.
Eli Weinstein.
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer, with thanks to Rabbi Litman for her officiation at their wedding.
Rick Crane, in memory of Charles Crane.
- Lisa Feldstein and Max Drukman**, in honor of the naming of Sophie Rebecca Drukman-Feldstein.
- Joe Hample**, in memory of Matthew Sheppard.
- Richard Inlander**, in honor of Kenny Altman's becoming vice president of Congregation Beth Shalom.
- Elizabeth Katz**, in honor of Rabbi Litman's officiation at her affirmation/conversion ceremonies.
- Daryl Morrell and Dennis May**, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman's officiation at their wedding.
- Lorraine and Bob Nacamulli**, in honor of Noah's becoming bar mitzvah.
- Alicia Sinclair**, in honor of the birth of Zachary Sean Sinclair.
- Robert Tat**, in honor of Ben Schalit's 40th birthday.
- High Holiday Contributions**
Robert Basker.
R. K. Bernstein.
Beatrice Bettinger.
Robert Daroff, in honor of Mrs. May Daroff.
Nancy Epstein.
Marius Greenspan.
Mark Hoffheimer.
Rose Katz.
Bernard Pechter, in honor of Marvin and Norma Pechter.
- Susan Percal and Francisco Jimenez**.
Florence and Steven Nacamulli.
Katherine A. Risolini.
Michael Rossom.
Michael Sieradzki.
Peter A. Warhit.
Gilda and Melvin Winiker, in honor of Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart.
- Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign**
Deborah Agre.
Randall Alfred, in honor of Edward Pollock.
- Rimma Ashkinadze**.
Melinda Basker.
Robert Basker.
Judith Bell and Jim Greenberg.
Buz Bernstein.
Yael Biederman and Jon Galinson.
G'dali Braverman, in memory of Dr. Andrew Zysman.
- Carol Cabell**.
James Carlson, in honor of Josh Rose's becoming bar mitzvah.
- Jeffrey Davidson**.
Stephen M. Delroy, in memory of David Delroy.
- Steve Elman and Tom Holt**, in appreciation of Ellie Cohen, Tiela Chalmers and Arthur Slepian.
- Steve Elman and Tom Holt**, in memory of Sylvia Rankin Sanders.
- Risselle R. Fleischer**, in honor of the wedding of Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer.
- Julia Friedlander**.
Jason Friedman.
Jonathan Funk, John Arnold and Evan, in honor of the 50th birthday of Daniel Funk.
- Jerry Geffner**.
Joan Goldman, in honor of Kadimah and the newest class.
- Michal Goralsky**, in loving memory of her mother, Leah Goralsky.
- Marius Greenspan**.
Joe Hample, in memory of Nancy Harjan.
- Anthony Harris**.
Lila and Jeffrey Hauptman.
Marissa Hurowitz, in memory of Barry Hurowitz and Edna Rosenfeld.
- Cindy Icke**.
Debbie Jacobs-Levine and Joel Levine.
Elizabeth Katz, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.
- Robert Katz**.
Sadie Katz.
- David Klein and Robert Senter**.
Robin Leonard, in honor of Rose Katz, an excellent tutor.
- Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**, in honor of Howard Steiermann's new home.
- Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**, in memory of Sylvia Rankin Sanders.
- Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**, in honor of Merry Luskin's attaining her MILS.
- Laura Lowe**.
Jan Medina and Leah Halperin, in honor of all the support their family received from the congregation for Leah's bat mitzvah.
- Nancy Meyer**, in honor of Tiela Chalmers and Ellie Cohen for all their hard work.
- Susan Mizner**.
Florence and Steven Nacamulli, in memory of Allen Harris.
- Steven and Florence Nacamulli**, in honor of Claire Rappoport's new home.
- Mac Partlow and Mike Conha**, in honor of John Atteridge.
- Harold Podgur**, in honor of Jack Podgur's 60th birthday.
- Mike Rankin**, in memory of Dr. Barnett Slepian.
- Antoinette and Dey Rose**.
Karen Schiller.
Helen and Gilbert Schlossberg-Cohen, in celebration of the wedding of Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleischer.
- Benjamin Shaykin**, in memory of Rose Shaykin.
- Laura Smart and Barak Richman**.
Rebekah Sutin and Rene Drulet.
Marian Talansky Gordon.
Roy B. Unger, in honor of Susan and Steve Unger.
- Sam Walters**.
Kimberly Warsaw and Judith Holiber, in memory of Poppy Warsaw.
- Richard Weiner and Susan Lubeck**, in memory of Mimi Nobel Weiner and Henoch Weiner.
- Allen and Susan Weiss**, in honor of Randy Weiss.
- Corine Sue Wick**.

Library News

—Joan Goldman

Here are a few children's titles to go with the gelt this season, although not all are Chanukah stories.

For younger children:

Uri Shulevitz, *The Treasure*
Marilyn Hirst, *Potato Pancakes All Around: A Hanukkah Tale*
David Adler, *Malke's Secret Recipe: A Chanukah Story From Chelm*

David Adler, *A Picture Book of Jewish Holidays*

For ages 5-8:

Howard Schwartz, *The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales From Around the World*

For older children:

Isaac B. Singer, *The Power of Light: Eight Stories For Hanukkah*

Isaac B. Singer, *Mazel and Shlimazel*

Isaac B. Singer, *The Fools of Chelm and Their History*

And a couple for adults, too:

Perle Besserman, editor, *Teachings of the Jewish Mystics: European and Middle Eastern Teachings From Zohar to Baal Shem Tov to Buber*

Rachel N. Remen, *Kitchen Table Wisdom, Stories That Heal: The Life of the Spirit in a Medical and New Age Frame*

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™

Freddie Roman, the legendary comic whose career began in the Catskills and soared to Broadway and the finest rooms in Atlantic City and Las Vegas, joins New York-based lesbian comic Sara Cytron (take my domestic partner—please!), San Francisco's Dan Lewis (opening act for Howie Mandel and Margaret Cho) and Kung Pao creator and CSZ-member Lisa Geduldig, for the sixth annual evening of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™.

KPKC will take place at the New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., Thursday-Sunday, December 24-27, two shows nightly. Partial proceeds from all eight Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ shows benefit two Bay Area organizations: WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases), a social and information network for women with HIV/AIDS; and Bay Area Council for Jewish Rescue and Renewal, promoting freedom for Jews in the former Soviet Union and reuniting families in the Bay Area.

For ticket information, call 522-3737 or visit www.igc.org/koshercomedy on the Internet.

Exploring Israel

A Journey of Pride Examines Gay and Lesbian Life

An exploration of gay and lesbian life and culture in Israel, including legal and social conditions, will be the focus of a groundbreaking Journey of Pride next spring.

The trip is scheduled for April 11 to April 22, 1999. Participants will meet with lesbian and gay authors, artists and activists as well as visit popular sites such as Masada, the Dead Sea, Tsfat, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. In addition, travelers will celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's independence day, and honor the memorial days of Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron which fall during the period.

Geared to gay and lesbian Jews, their partners and friends, the journey will provide first-timers, as well as those who have been to Israel many times, with a unique perspective of the Jewish state.

The trip is taking place under the auspices of the Israel Center and the Gay and Lesbian Task Force, both projects of the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Federation. Cost is \$2,500 per person, double occupancy, and includes airfare, hotels, touring, entrance fees and most meals. For information, call Cindy Rogoway at the Jewish Community Federation at 512-6213.

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Anniversaries

8	Theodora Mauro and Pamela Miller
12	Pieter de Haan and Ruth Rainero
13	Gabriele Kassner and Shelley Spiro
22	Bruce Henry and Pascal Peterson
24	Lucy Fine and Shuli Goodman
29	Benjamin Bank and Brian Jersky
31	Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach
31	Laura Lowe and Karen Brandman
31	Florence and Steven Nacamulli



New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Shoshana Rosenfeld

Joyce Jacobson

**Leslie Tick, Alexandra "Sasha" Fisher
and Avery Fisher**

Mark S. Greenberg

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Pesach Baking Class

Jeff Forman, Sha'ar Zahav Va'ad member and classically trained professional pastry chef, will teach a class entitled "Chocolate Desserts for Pesach" in early March, 1999. It will be a fundraiser for the Mishkan and will be held in the kitchen at the Mishkan Dolores building.

Jeff was mentioned in the June, 1998 issue of *Gourmet Magazine* as making "heavenly tart dough." However, this dough is not kosher for Pesach! Instead, Jeff will be adapting classic French desserts for Passover. The dishes in the class will include a flourless torte, a souffle, truffles and cookies. All will involve chocolate as an ingredient. Only the finest chocolate will be used.

Jeff is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York, where he studied under Jacques Pepin. He worked on the first season of Chef Pepin's television series *Today's Gourmet* and has worked at Restaurant Lulu, One Market, Palio d'Asti and Splendido. He has taught classes in New York and in Padua, Italy.

Cost of the class will be on a sliding scale of \$120 to \$180. All proceeds will go to the capital campaign. Please contact the office at 861-6932 to sign up.



The women on the roof — CSZ at Habitat for Humanity. Photo by Renée Bauer.



Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

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Members' Yahrzeits

- 4 Marilyn O'Keeffe
9 Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu
18 David Glassberg
20 Norman David Kramer
29 Allan Craig

Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Louisa Stone, on the death of her father, Noel Stone.

Merry Luskin, on the death of her father, Leo Luskin.

Sara Felder, on the death of her friend, Mira Rafalowicz.

Classifieds

CO-PARENT WANTED. I am a 34-year-old warm, educated, financially secure, CSZ member who will make a great dad. Looking for a woman or couple in the area interested in co-parenting. Flexibility, communication, stability, and raising the child in a loving and nurturing environment key. Call 415/552-9212.

OUR FAMILY IS GROWING & WE NEED MORE SPACE! We are current CSZ members who are expecting the arrival of our first child in April 1999. We are desperately seeking an affordable two bedroom flat, apartment or house to rent. Please call Ellen & Stephanie at 415/285-3626 or 415/552-6734 with any possible leads.

FOR SALE. Two orchestra seats to four SF Ballet performances during February, March and April. \$37 per ticket. Call Randy at 882-6926.

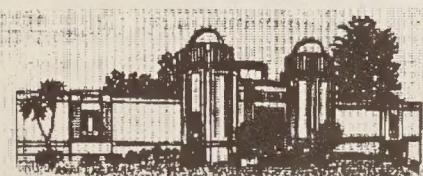
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ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

SEARCHING FOR SHARE RENTAL: Former CSZ member Bill Ashley-Dobbin is looking to come home. I am a gay 54-year-old nonsmoker living on a fixed income. I can pay about \$300 per month. After laughter contact Leonard Brill locally at 824-7580, or Bill at 1010 University Avenue #157 San Diego, CA 92103-3398, 619/284-8919.

CSZ TEEN looking for babysitting and mother's helper work. Call G. Lindsey at 334-4784 for information.

TROPICAL PARADISE—Kauai vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.



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Birthdays

2 Elizabeth Kassoff
 3 Suzanne Bojdak
 3 Emma Greenberg-Bell
 3 Sophie Macks
 4 Maxine Epstein
 6 Dan Alpert
 6 Amy Todor
 7 Debbi Jacobs-Levine
 7 Rina Prussin
 8 Merry Luskin
 9 Sara Felder Noily
 9 Chaya Rivka Mayerson
 10 Cindy Icke
 12 Ken Carroll
 12 William Goldstein
 12 Walter Leiss
 13 Annie Downs
 14 Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan
 14 Isabel Lahn-Schroeder
 15 Phil Charney
 15 Ron Lezell
 15 Nina Raff
 19 Theodora Mauro
 19 A. David Shaber
 20 Michele Sullivan
 23 Evan Kuluk
 23 Jeffrey Piade
 23 Allyn Stern
 24 Max Blachman-Gentile
 24 Ellen Kugler
 24 Jasmine Marah
 24 Drew Parker
 25 G'dali Braverman
 26 Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe
 26 Jose Luis Moscovich
 26 Ruthy Talansky
 27 Sophie Drukman-Feldstein
 27 Rick Shelton
 28 Allison Schaffer
 29 Bernard Choden
 29 Susan Gelmis
 29 Reuben Winters Raff
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 31 Sam Thal

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Synagogue Information

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 office@shaarzahav.org

Second Vice President, Susan Tubbesing
Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
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 rabbijanelitman@shaarzahav.org

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Officers:
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 (337-6319,
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 president@shaarzahav.org)
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CSZ Staff:
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Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Melanie Kushnir
Youth Advisor, Meredith Fenton

Committee Chairs:
Adult Education, Sue Bojdak
Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Baby Chavurah, Melissa and Ari Grossman-Naples
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruth Rainero
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dor Rishon, Sam Messler
Dues Liaison, Eric Temple
East Bay Services, Hilary Zaid
Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin
Environmental Action, Barak Gale

and Brian Besser
Finance, Arthur Slepian
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Membership, Ami Zusman
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Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Lyssa Friedman
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, Ilana Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLJO Liaison, Neil Grungras
Women's Chavurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.

DECEMBER

1 Tuesday
12 Kislev

- 6:30 pm, Dues committee

2 Wednesday
13 Kislev

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

3 Thursday
14 Kislev

4 Friday
15 Kislev

- 4:33 pm, Candle lighting
- 7 pm, Early service, led by Paul Cohen
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Vayishlach, led by Dev Noily and Nathan Robinson

5 Saturday
16 Kislev

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Parent Education program
- 2 pm, Social Action/Tikkun Olam committee tea with Notre Dame residents at CSZ

6 Sunday
17 Kislev

- 1–6 pm, Synagogue Architecture class

7 Monday
18 Kislev

- 7 pm, Children's Education Board meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout and proofreading

8 Tuesday
19 Kislev

9 Wednesday
20 Kislev

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

10 Thursday
21 Kislev

11 Friday
22 Kislev

- 4 pm, CSZ Book Fair
- 4:33 pm, Candle lighting
- 7:15 pm, Niggun service, led by Jhos Singer
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Vayeshev, led by Tiela Chalmers and Ruthy Talansky, sermon by Rabbi Litman

12 Saturday
23 Kislev

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shabbat morning service, Bat Mitzvah of Annie Downs, led by Rabbi Litman and Tiela Chalmers
- 3 pm, HIV support group

13 Sunday
24 Kislev

- 10 am, Baby Chavurah
- 10 am–4 pm, CSZ Book Fair
- 1–4 pm, Chanukah Art Fair
- 2:30 pm, Youth Group Chanukah party
- 8 pm, La'atid Chanukah party, 215 1/2 Henry St.

14 Monday
25 Kislev

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

15 Tuesday
26 Kislev

- 6 pm, Leadership Development program

16 Wednesday
27 Kislev

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

17 Thursday
28 Kislev

- 6:30 pm, Ritual committee
- 7 pm, Bikur Cholim committee

18 Friday
29 Kislev

- 4:35 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Mikketz, Building Dedication, led by Rabbi Litman and members of the Ritual committee, Randy Weiss (violin)

19 Saturday
30 Kislev

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Tot Shabbat
- 10 am, Torah Study
- 5 pm, Mishkan Dolores Dedication

20 Sunday
1 Tevet

- 10 am–4 pm, CSZ Book Fair
- Noon, Neighborhood Open House

21 Monday
2 Tevet

- 7 pm, Membership committee

22 Tuesday
3 Tevet

23 Wednesday
4 Tevet

24 Thursday
5 Tevet

- Project Open Hand volunteering

25 Friday
6 Tevet

- Project Open Hand volunteering
- 4:38 pm, Candle lighting
- 6 pm, Tot Shabbat brown bag dinner
- 7:15 pm, Tot Shabbat service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Vayiggash, led by Sarita Groisser and Nina Wouk

26 Saturday
7 Tevet

- 9:30 am, Trail Midrash, meet at trailhead

27 Sunday
8 Tevet

28 Monday
9 Tevet

29 Tuesday
10 Tevet

30 Wednesday
11 Tevet

31 Thursday
12 Tevet

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

East Bay Services

East Bay services have been canceled for December. They will resume in January.

JANUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Please submit articles via e-mail to robinl@nolo.com. If you do not have e-mail, please submit them on a 3½-inch disk and mail to CSZ. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.

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